referred will consider the problem in all its aspects and make suitable recommendations.

As the details of the variations of the several items have been explained in the memorandum, I do not wish to detain the House by further elaboration.

**Medical Department.**—I now come to the Medical Department. We have not been unmindful of the necessity of this department in its various activities, and the provision we have made for this department for 1102 exceeds the anticipated expenditure for the current year by Rs. 6,100. A sum of Rs. 68,000 has been provided for 1102 towards cost of medicines, instruments, etc., as against the revised estimate of Rs. 66,500 while the provision under 'Dietary charges' has been fixed at Rs. 30,000, following the revised estimate.

**Sanitation and Conservancy.**—As against the revised estimate of Rs. 19,100, a provision of Rs. 12,000 only is made for Town improvement works in the coming year. Similarly, the contribution to the Municipal Councils has been reduced from Rs. 20,943 to Rs. 11,848 which is distributed as follows.—

Trichur Rs. 7,504
Chittur-Tattamangalam Rs. 4,344.

The principle followed in fixing these contributions is that they should cover the deficits in the Municipal budgets for the year.

The usual provision of Rs. 10,000 for improvement of water supply has been transferred to the Panchayat Department, as the Government consider that these local bodies would be a more proper agency for the execution of such works. It cannot but be admitted, as I observed last year, that the Sanitation Department has been relieved of many of its original functions as a result of the advent and growth of the Panchayats. During recent years the Panchayats have considerably extended the scope of their activities, and they have taken the control of sanitation also in several places. It has been the practice to provide different amounts in the Panchayat and Sanitation budgets for Conservancy works in rural areas with the result that there are now two different and independent agencies acting in contiguous areas and attending to similar duties. As already remarked, the Panchayat appears to the Government to be the better agency, and hence the transfer of the provision to the Panchayat budget. The question of the Sanitary staff, as affected by the transfer, is under the consideration of the Government.

**Public Works.**—Under 'Public Works' a provision of Rs. 11,45,300 is made, of which Rs. 2,00,000 is for 'Mechanical and

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Electrical Engineering' as against the revised estimate of Rs. 10,70,900.

The budget estimate for 1102 under 'Civil Engineering' is fixed at Rs. 9,45,297 as against the revised estimate of Rs. 8,96,776. the large increase being chiefly due to the enhanced provision for irrigation. The primary importance of irrigation in an agricultural State like ours is well recognised by the Government, and they are no whit behind any member of this House in their desire for extending the facilities for irrigation in the State. Thus, while the actuals of 1100 under 'Irrigation' came to Rs. 1,06,891 only and the revised estimate comes to Rs. 78,177 only, a provision of Rs. 1,47,982 is made for 1102. It is the question of finance alone that stands between the Government and larger provision for this purpose. The canal in Elankunnapuzha and Narakkal villages, the Thanikudam Project work, the protective works for *Kole* cultivation, the construction of an additional weir for the Enamakal dam, improvement of the Mulathara Canal System—these are but some of the items proposed under 'Irrigation' in the coming year. On the Building side, the Leper Asylum at Adoor, a suitable building for the Girls' School at Ernakulam, a building for the Government Trades School at Trichur, extension of the Nemmara School, a few Palaces for accommodating the members of the Ruling Family—are some of the major items of works proposed to be taken up next year.

Out of the provision of Rs. 2,00,000 on the side of 'Mechanical and Electrical Engineering,' nearly Rs. 72,000 is for the duplication of the Water Works machinery. The details of the provisions being worked out in the budget statement, I do not propose to dwell on them here. A word about the provision of Rs. 10,000 for boring operations in Nemmara. The scarcity of water in Nemmara in the hot months of the year being so patent a fact, the Government have been for a long time considering various schemes to relieve it. It is to the credit of our Public Works Department that it has at last successfully solved this problem. The boring operations have been attended with success so far. A perennial source of water has been tapped, and it is hoped ere long a system of street hydrants can be introduced in Nemmara.

I shall now bring these remarks to a close after referring to one more department of governmental activity, viz., the 'Scientific, etc., Department.' As the future of the State depends much on the progress of its industrial education and development, Government have not stinted in making adequate provision under this for the next year. Thus, while the revised esti-

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mate comes to only Rs. 83,600 a provision of Rs. 90,100 is made for the coming year. The provision of Rs. 500 under 'Ethnography' is for the the third volume of Mr. Ananthakrishna Ayyar's 'Cochin Tribes and Castes.'

### DEBT HEADS.

During the current year we have paid off the old balance of Rs. 10,000 pending out of the debenture loan. The only loan now remaining is that of Rs. 75,000 taken from the Devaswam Department and paid to the Vaniampara Rubber Company. During the coming year a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs is provided for investment under 'Capital works', viz., the Harbour. The year 1102 which is expected to begin with a net surplus of Rs. 46,49,553 is anticipated to close with Rs. 47,95,253 to the credit of the State after providing for all the existing liabilities.

### SUMMARY.

This, Sir, completes my review of the budget. I think I have made clear our financial position at the present time and our proposals for the coming year. The resources are being developed, expenditure is well under control, and a policy of liberal grants has been adopted in all the departments affecting the moral and material progress of the people—called by some as 'the nation building departments'—and these without violating the obligation to balance revenue and expenditure. Education, Public Health and Medicine, Industries, Public Works, Agriculture, etc., have all received generous and substantial provisions. No doubt there might be some who will maintain that we might have set apart a larger proportion of our expenditure for people's wants; but with the limitations on our existing resources which have rather become inelastic, I do not foresee possibilities, in this direction unless we turn to 'fresh fields and pastures new'. *If* more funds had been available—please remember that big '*if*'—certainly, there are directions in which more attention could have been bestowed. To those who hold this view my only request is that they may be pleased to take a fair and impartial view of the various demands on our funds. This done, they will, I hope, agree that our proposals for the expenditure of the funds at our disposal have been conceived with every sympathy for the well-being of the people. In that hope, I present to the Council the budget estimates of the State for the year 1102.

## CRANGANUR.

Having done with the State budget, I shall now speak a few words on the Cranganur budget.

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